

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, the title of the invention has been changed so as to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions. A substitute specification and abstract have been prepared and are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Enclosed is a marked-up of the specification and abstract indicating the changes incorporated therein.

Replacement Figures 2, 3 and 6 are also enclosed herewith. Replacement Figures 2 and 6 change the label "SSa" to "SSp" in accordance with the specification. Replacement Figure 3 corrects a number of the equations included therein. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 12-15, 25-27 and 32-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Balaban (US 6,459,458). Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balaban in view of Yoshida (US 6,070,062).

Claims 8-11, 16-23 and 28-31 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, claims 8, 10, 16, 28 and 30 have been amended so as to include the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, claims 8-11, 16-23 and 28-31 are allowable.

Further, claims 33 and 35 have been amended so as to include the limitations of allowable claim 8 and claims 34 and 36 have been amended so as to include the limitations of allowable claim 10. Therefore, claims 33-36 should also now be allowable.

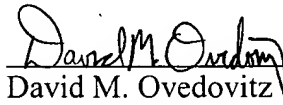
In addition, claims 1-7, 12-15, 24-27 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, only the allowable claims discussed above remain pending.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi AZAKAMI et al.

By:


David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
December 27, 2004